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LB 1146

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SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This bill, what it does is it eliminates the permit requirement for what had been an overweight permit. It does not change the overweight allowance. It's 15 percent. I do want, and the committee amendment which Senator Bromm will explain here in a minute becomes the bill, but I do want to publicly thank the department. The Department of Roads worked with us many hours on this bill, the State Patrol and so on, and I really want to take this opportunity to thank those people. And with that, I believe I'll yield the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Bromm on the committee amendments to LB 1146.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you very much, Mr. President. The committee amendment becomes the bill and the committee chose to somewhat, I think, pare down or narrow what Senator Baker's original intent was and the upshot of it is that the amendment provides that within the area of seasonally harvested grain and products and the transportation of that grain, that they may...they may operate from the field where the grain is located or the stockpile in the field to market for up to 70 miles which is more than the 40 that was previously in the law with the 15 percent...15 percent overweight provision that has been in the law before. We are removing the permit requirement which does have a small amount of effect upon the revenue into the Highway Trust Fund but the trade-off for that is that the owner of the product that is being transferred must sign and give to the driver a signed statement of the origin and destination of the grain. In meetings that we had following the committee hearing with the Department of Roads and Weights and Measures, Carrier Enforcement and so forth, the consensus was that the fooling around with these permits and the paperwork was more trouble than it was worth, that it was not something that either the regulators or the industry cared for, and that the administrative trouble was more than it was worth. So taking...taking them at their word, we did see fit to adopt the committee amendment and I think it's...I think it's a good common sense improvement. It eliminates a lot of paperwork and